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STUDY IN SWITZERLAND

(Free Translation by J. Stucki)

Do you intend undertaking study in Switzerland? It is advised that you start to make enquiries a year in advance if possible. You will find below a general survey of the essential conditions concerning preparation for a study stay for Swiss living abroad.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Firstly, the wish to study in Switzerland must be the young person's own. The change from one's home country, different customs, the concept of school and work, the different climate as well as the separation from one's family and friends, requires a strong motivation, independence and the facility to adapt.

LANGUAGE

Swiss from abroad who wish to study in Switzerland must know at least one of our national languages - preferably French or German.

If this is not the case, they must acquire this knowledge beforehand at home. Without this linguistic capability, it is practically impossible to achieve a sufficiently high standard for examination purposes. For Swiss living abroad who speak Italian, the study possibilities are limited.

Only some cantons make study grants for language courses. The majority of intensive language courses are taught only in private schools and are generally very expensive.

PREPARATORY STUDY

The different school systems in the countries of domicile do not always reach the same standard as that found in Swiss schools in all subjects. If the difference is too pronounced, it is advisable to undertake a preparatory year in Switzerland before beginning your study or apprenticeship.

APPRENTICESHIP

As a general rule, one can begin an apprenticeship after having completed nine years of compulsory schooling. For certain apprenticeships, a second national language (German or French) is required.

UNIVERSITY STUDY

Leaving Certificates abroad are not always recognised by Swiss universities. All the Swiss institutions of universal standard are autonomous, and the conditions of admission can vary from one establishment to another. It is possible for Swiss living abroad to set an entrance examination for acceptance into the faculty of their choice. There are study classes available (for example at Fribourg) which the cantonal offices for study grants can subsidise.

CHOICE OF CAREERS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION

Most often, young people know a lot about the realities of professions in their own country, but this knowledge does not always coincide with the situation in Switzerland.

In the choice of a profession it is important to bear in mind both the personal aptitude, tastes and ambitions of the person, as well as study opportunities available and the work market.

It is also necessary to take into consideration the young person's future plans: will he/she be returning to his/her country of residence or staying on in Switzerland after his/her studies.

More information, and also addresses are available through AJAS.

STUDY COSTS

Parents are responsible for the cost of study (also for young people who have attained their majority). If they are not able to meet the whole cost, their canton of origin may give grants for study. The amount in all cases depends on the parents' income and assets, and these subsidies are only given for recognised schools or study. In order to receive a study grant, it is necessary to be enrolled in a school or university, or to have begun an apprenticeship.

In general, the amount of the subsidies is paid several months after the commencement of study.

ACCOMMODATION

The availability of modestly-priced accommodation is limited, especially in the cities. In order to find a cheap room, it is necessary to look well ahead of time. Rooms in the student or apprentices' accommodation halls must be reserved several months in advance. Nearly all the universities have an office for arranging accommodation.

If, during the first months of their stay, the young people have the opportunity of living with parents who will help them to adapt and to look for a room, it is a great advantage.

More information can be obtained from AJAS.

HELP!!!!

I am a swiss girl, aged 21, looking for a job in Auckland from March until July/August 1992 in order to finance my stay.

I graduated from Kantonsschule (secondary school) of modern languages (English, French, Italian and German).

In 1988 I was an AFS student in New Zealand.

Please contact me, if you have any offer to make!

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